

# Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health Advisors

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**Mommsen, Norlin [LEGIS]**

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**From:** Swanson, Jacob <Jacob.Swanson@iowaagriculture.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:59 AM  
**To:** Mommsen, Norlin [LEGIS]  
**Subject:** ICASH Code Language

SUBCHAPTER XII AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**262.78 Center for agricultural health and safety.** 1. The board of regents shall establish a center for agricultural health and safety at the university of Iowa. The center shall be a joint venture by the university of Iowa and Iowa state university of science and technology. The center shall establish farm health and safety programs designed to reduce the incidence of disabilities suffered by persons engaged in agriculture which results from disease or injury. The university of Iowa is primarily responsible for the management of agricultural health and injury programs at the center. Iowa state university of science and technology is primarily responsible for the management of the agricultural safety programs of the center. 2. The center shall cooperate with the center for rural health and primary care, established under section 135.107, the center for health effects of environmental contamination established pursuant to section 263.17, and the department of agriculture and land stewardship. The agencies shall coordinate programs to the extent practicable. 3. The president of the university of Iowa, in consultation with the president of Iowa state university of science and technology, shall employ a full-time director of the center. The center may employ staff to carry out the center's purpose. The director shall coordinate the agricultural health and safety programs of the center. The director shall regularly meet and consult with the advisory committee to the center for rural health and primary care. The director shall provide the board of regents with relevant information regarding the center. 4. The center may solicit, accept, and administer moneys contributed to the center by any source, and may enter into contracts with public or private agencies in order to carry out its purposes. 5. The center shall cooperate with public and private entities to provide support to programs emphasizing agricultural health, safety, and rehabilitation for farm families. 1990 Acts, ch 1207, §3; 2005 Acts, ch 179, §155 Referred to in 135.107, 263.17 **262.79 and 262.80**

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## Background

High rates of illnesses, injuries and fatalities among farmers, farmworkers, and their families have long been recognized as a challenge to Iowa's agricultural sustainability. To address this problem, in 1990, Iowa legislators Wendell Pellett (R) and Josephine Gruhn (D) co-sponsored the bill that established Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (Iowa Code, 262.78). I-CASH was funded through a line-item in the University of Iowa's budget until 2001. That year, the line item was eliminated and the center became part of the general appropriation to the UI.



**Now, with decreasing allocations to the Universities, funding for I-CASH is threatened.**

Although the center was established at the University of Iowa, it brings together the expertise of Iowa State University, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to reduce the rates of injuries and illnesses associated with agriculture.

Although the numbers of agricultural fatalities and injuries have gone down over time, so have the number of farmers. This means that rates of injuries and fatalities have remained steady over time and they are consistently six to seven times higher than other industries. *Farmers make up only 5% of Iowa's workforce, but they suffer more than 30% of the state's occupational injuries and fatalities.*

***I-CASH is the only currently active organization that focuses solely on the health and safety of Iowa's farmers.***

### Ongoing I-CASH Programs

#### ***Agricultural Youth Injury Prevention Grants***

Since 1998, I-CASH has invested in Iowa communities by funding youth groups to conduct farm safety related projects.

#### ***Annual Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Conference***

I-CASH convenes safety and health professionals, researchers, students, and farmers to share the most recent information and best practices in agricultural and rural safety and health.

#### ***Seasonal Campaigns***

Every quarter, I-CASH distributes resources to ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices statewide. Topics have included grain engulfment prevention, mental health and stress management, chemical handling, and fire prevention.

### Core Partnerships

***The link between UI and ISU is really important, and the partnership is critical to covering what would otherwise be a patchwork. Our partnership allows us to better reach our target audience.***

-- Gretchen Mosher, Associate Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, ISU

***I-CASH has been critical for us at IDPH in being able to move from the reporting of data and surveillance into working with others to show impact and do the outreach. There's no way we could do what we are funded to do without partnering with I-CASH.***

-- Kathy Leinenkugel, Occupational Health and Safety Surveillance Program Manager, IDPH

## I-CASH Network

I-CASH facilitates interactions between statewide partners. These have resulted in numerous initiatives that improve the health and safety of Iowa's agricultural workforce. Some recent examples include:

- A collaboration between UIHC and the ISU Pesticide Training Program to address safety when using ATVs to spray pesticides.
- I-CASH developed safety training videos in English and Spanish for the State Office of Rural Health to be distributed through Rural Health Clinics.
- I-CASH worked with the Crisis Center, Northeast Iowa Behavioral Health, and the Iowa Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to develop a video promoting bystander training for suicide prevention in rural communities.

***The original line item budget in 1990 was \$250,000 (\$493,000 in 2018 dollars)***

***The current annual Budget is \$260,000.***

***We must ensure funding to deliver these critical agricultural services that are mandated in the Iowa Code.***

# Yielding Results

I-CASH strives to improve safety and health knowledge throughout the agricultural industry. A recent survey about the Seasonal Campaigns was sent to ISUEO and FSA employees:



**83%**

agreed that health and safety issues in agriculture do not get enough attention



**75%**

stated that the campaigns are an effective way to get health and safety information to farmers



**61%**

reported that they had learned more about agricultural hazards thanks to the campaigns



**49%**

have used campaign materials in their work with farmers



I-CASH provided prevention materials to ISU Extension and Farm Service Agency offices in every county throughout the year. **This year I-CASH:**

Reached  
**3,639**  
Iowa farmers,  
farmworkers  
and youth, and  
distributed  
more than  
**21,000**  
prevention  
resources  
statewide

Awarded  
**10**  
grants to Iowa  
youth groups  
who reached  
**429**  
farmers and  
**1,069**  
rural youth with  
agricultural safety  
information

Authored  
**6**  
Safety Watch  
Columns in  
*Iowa Farmer Today*,  
reaching nearly  
**150,000**  
households  
in print

Hosted  
**90**  
participants  
from  
**8**  
US states and  
Canada at the  
2017 Midwest  
Rural Agricultural  
Safety and Health  
Conference

**It is hard to measure impact because you can't say "this many people didn't die," but if there's one person whose actions were made safer and didn't have a bad result, then that's a great impact.**

KRISTINE SCHAEFER,  
PESTICIDE SAFETY  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAM  
MANAGER, IOWA  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION AND  
OUTREACH

Provided  
**19**  
public presentations  
on topics including  
safety with chemical  
handling, livestock  
handling, ATVs,  
and community  
engagement in  
farm safety  
outreach

Reached over  
**3,000**  
households each  
quarter with the  
*Alive and Well*  
Newsletter

Exhibited at  
**9**  
conferences  
and field days

Contributed to print  
and radio stories  
for *The Des Moines  
Register*, *John Deere  
Magazine*, *Farm  
Bureau Spokesman*,  
*Omaha World Herald*,  
*River to River* (Iowa  
Public Radio), and  
*Iowa Farmer Today*